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MAY - 4 2004

In re Application of:  
John V. Smith et al.  
Serial No.: 10/655,862  
Filed: September 5, 2003  
Attorney Docket No.: 7719-114

DECISION ON PETITION TO  
MAKE SPECIAL

This is a decision on the petition under 37 C.F.R. § 1.102, filed September 5, 2003, to make the above-identified application special.

The petition requests that the above-identified application be made special under the accelerated examination procedure set forth in the Manual of Patent Examining Procedure (M.P.E.P.), Section 708.02, Item VIII: Accelerated Examination.

A petition is grantable if it complies with M.P.E.P. § 708.02, Item VIII: Accelerated Examination. It must be accompanied by (a) a petition fee of \$130.00, (b) a statement that all claims are directed to a single invention and an offer to make an oral election without traverse should the Patent and Trademark Office hold that the claims are not directed to a single invention, (c) a statement that a pre-examination search has been made by the inventor, attorney, agent, or professional searchers, etc., the field of search was also provided, (d) one copy of each of the references deemed most closely related to the subject matter encompassed by the claims, and (e) a detailed description of the submitted references and discussions pointing out how the claimed subject matter distinguishes over these references.

The petition lacks item (b) above. To expedite the examining proceeding of this application, this decision is rendered based on the assumption that all claims presented in this application are directed to a single invention. However, should the examiner hold that the claims are not directed to a single invention, applicant is hereby required to make an oral election without traverse. Failure to make an oral election without traverse would result in the application file being returned to the Group Director's office for issuance of a decision vacating this decision and withdrawing the special status granted hereby.

For the above stated reasons, the petition is GRANTED.

The application file is being forwarded to the examiner for expedited prosecution.

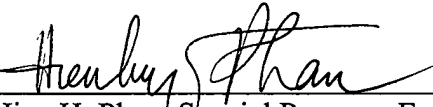
If the examiner can make this application special without prejudice to any possible interfering applications, and he/she should make a rigid search for such, he/she is authorized to do so for the next action. Should the application be rejected, the application will not be considered special for the subsequent action unless the applicant promptly makes a bona fide effort to place the application in condition for allowance, even if it is necessary to have an interview with the examiner to accomplish this purpose.

If the examiner finds any interfering application for the same subject matter, he/she should consider such application simultaneously with this application and should state in the official letter of such application that he/she is taking it out of its turn because of possible interference.

Should an appeal be taken in this application or should this application becomes involved in an interference, consideration of the appeal and the interference will be expedited by all Patent and Trademark Office officials concerned, contingent likewise upon diligent prosecution by the applicant.

After allowance, this application will be given priority for printing. See M.P.E.P. § 1309.

The petition is granted to the extent indicated.

  
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